

Seeks Racial Balance In Nations Teachers

Washington, D.C. —When the nation's schools open this fall 92 out of every 100 teachers will have white skins. In the states of the Old South, the percentage will be lower — 78 of every 100. In the other states, the percentage will be higher — 96 of every 100.

These will be the percentages, at least, if 1960 figures hold true. While the data

was collected four years ago, it was only recently abstracted and analysed by the Research Division of the National Education Association, the nation's largest organization of teachers.

And the NEA is concerned at the implications. Lois Edinger, NEA president, puts it like this:

"Schools everywhere, but particularly those in states outside the Old South, need to do a lot more if they are to bring their teaching staffs into racial balance. For while non-white children in 1960 made up over 14 per cent of the school population, non-white teachers occupied just 8 per cent of the teaching posts."

The racial imbalance was particularly wide outside of the Old South, she said. In the South, she said, 22 of every 100 teachers in 1960 were non-white. But in the rest of the country, only 4 of every 100 teachers were non-white.

And over 90 per cent of those in the non-white category are negro.

"It has long been the policy of NEA," she pointed out, "that considerations of race have no place in teacher hiring. Not only should there be no discrimination among students, not only should there be no discrimination in teaching staffs."

Northern schools, Miss Edinger said, have been making strenuous efforts, particularly in recent years, to hire qualified Negro teachers. The supply, however, is limited, she said.

"When high school students returned to their classrooms this fall, they should be thinking about their futures, what they want to do and what they have to do in order to get ready."

TEENAGE RIGHTS FIGHTERS ARE JACKIE'S GUESTS

St. Augustine, Fla., — Two of the four Ancient City teenagers who spent six months in the Florida State Reformatory, because of their refusal to sign a pledge not to do any more civil rights demonstrations, are currently spending a two-week vacation in Westport, Conn., as guests of Jackie Robinson.

The two, Audrey Neil Edwards and Joanne Anderson, first met Jackie Robinson when he spoke at a civil rights rally in Ocala, Fla., and again when he came to the Ancient City to speak under the auspices of the Rev. Martin Luther King's Southern Christian Leadership Conference.

The case of the Ancient City four, sent to reformatories by St. Johns County Judge Charles Mathis, because neither they nor their parents would agree to sign pledges that they would not demonstrate until 21 years of age, and furthermore would not go out after 9 o'clock at night.

"Does this package belong to you? The name is obliterated."

"No, that can't be mine. My name is O'Brien."

An old timer is one who remembers when "seat belts" were a juvenile corrective measure, not a safety device.



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